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original well-digested comment on almost every page upon a variety of hotly disputed questions, which will make the book of permanent value. Whether it is the last word on the subject may be doubted. For perhaps Takahashi or some other Japanese publicist on the one side and de Martens on the other may clear up certain matters yet with official information.

Nor is it likely that we yet know the full truth as to the real reasons underlying the Portsmouth treaty. Hershey truly thinks that this was far from being a diplomatic victory for Russia. It fairly embodied the principle of *uti possidetis*: sufficient proof of its equity. Credits were growing low; the trans-Siberian railway had shown unexpected capability; the Russian army probably outnumbered the Japanese, and each retreat improved its position. It had become too big to be bagged. The Japanese had won every battle; they had won everything essential. It was a war of defense, and a treaty of defense was indicated. Would it be surprising if the future should reveal that Japan in her inscrutable way saw that the psychological moment had come, persuaded Mr. Roosevelt to initiate negotiations in her behalf, emphasized the non-indispensable while securing what she most wanted in the treaty itself, and won as great a victory in diplomacy as she had done in war? There are a few typographical or other errors but none of a misleading kind: 1897 for 1807 (p. 75); *Count* Lansdowne (p. 230); "navel" for naval (p. 143); and half a dozen misprints.

This is in every way a very good piece of work indeed.

THEODORE S. WOOLSEY.

#### BOOKS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

*The Northmen, Columbus and Cabot, 985-1503.* Edited by JULIUS E. OLSON and EDWARD GAYLORD BOURNE. [*Original Narratives of Early American History.* Edited by J. FRANKLIN JAMESON. Volume I.] (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1906. Pp. xv, 443.)

At its annual meeting in December, 1902, the American Historical Association approved and adopted the plan of the present series, choosing Dr. J. Franklin Jameson as its general editor. The purpose of the series is to provide historical students and the libraries of schools and colleges with a comprehensive and well-rounded collection of those narratives on which the early history of the United States is founded; and the present volume forms a good beginning to this excellent and laudable undertaking. Thus under the *Northmen* Professor J. E. Olson of Wisconsin prints the Vinland narrations in the *Saga of Eric the Red* and in the *Flat Island Book* (Flateyjarbok), together with extracts from Adam of Bremen, from the Icelandic Annals, relative to Vinland and Markland, adding versions of the Papal Letters of 1448 and 1492 (from Nicholas V. and Alexander VI.) dealing with Green-

land. Again under *Columbus* Professor E. G. Bourne gives us the Articles of Agreement between Columbus and the Catholic kings (April 17, 1492); the Official Grant of Titles by the latter to the former (April 30, 1492); the Journal of the First Voyage (from Sir Clements Markham's version of the fuller text discovered in 1825); the Letters of Columbus to Luis de Santangel and to the Catholic sovereigns (March 14, 1493, and later); Dr. Chanca's Letter on Columbus's Second Voyage; Las Casas's record of the Third Voyage; and the Admiral's Letters descriptive of his Fourth Voyage and of his sufferings and ill treatment (the latter addressed to the Nurse of Prince John). Lastly under the Cabots Professor Bourne reprints the Letters of Pasqualigo and Soncino (August 23, 24, and December 18, 1497), and Pedro de Ayala's despatch to Ferdinand and Isabella (July 25, 1498).

Most serviceable and in all ways to be welcomed is this volume, as has been said. But it might have been made still more serviceable. Why, for instance, did the editor not furnish us with the Vinland and other American references from the Icelandic historian Are Frode, from the famous traveller abbot Nicolas of Thingeyre, from the *Kristni Saga*, the *Eyrbyggja Saga*, and the *Grettis Saga*, references which add so concisely and suggestively to the chain of testimony reaching down from the earliest Icelandic chronicler to the composition of *Red Eric Saga* in the thirteenth century? Surely it would have been better to print all these among our texts, at the cost of some three or four additional pages of transcription, rather than merely to give, as he has done, a version of the *Kristni Saga* passage in a foot-note to the introduction, while referring the inquirer to A. M. Reeves's *Wineland the Good* for the rest.

Also I would suggest that Adam of Bremen, the first and best historian of northern Germany in the Middle Ages, the one contemporary who has preserved a record of the polar voyage of Harald Hadrada, is not adequately dealt with in note 1, p. 67; that his primary position (in time order) among the witnesses to the Scandinavian discovery of America is either not properly appreciated or at least not duly emphasized; and that Professor Olson's seeming acquiescence (pp. 6-7) in the common and ignorant presumption of a complete "absence of contemporary record" for the Vinland voyages does wrong to the chronicler of the church of Hamburg—like Bede, an investigator of much more than ecclesiastical affairs. For, as the dates furnished by Mr. Olson sufficiently testify, both Adam and his royal informant Svein Estrithson of Denmark (from whom the passage on the "insula . . . quae dicitur Winland" is mainly derived) are younger contemporaries of Leif Ericson and Thorfinn Karlsefne—to say nothing of Are Frode, whose birth (in 1067) lies within a measurable distance of the American discoveries of the "Vinland-farers" (1000-1006).

Again, why not have added to the concluding medieval notices of Greenland in papal letters some earlier references to the same country such as those in Adam himself, in Ordericus Vitalis, in other Middle

Age historians and geographers, together with the really important statements in Ivar Bardsen's *Descriptio*, and in Icelandic and ecclesiastical annals.

And in the same way, would it have been difficult to annex to the Cabot documents here printed the Petition and First Letters Patent of March 5, 1496 (the fundamental document relating to John Cabot's earliest "American" voyage), together with the despatch of March 28, 1496, from Ferdinand and Isabella to Ruy Gonçales de Puebla, their senior ambassador in England, Henry VII.'s grant of August 10, 1497, "to him that found the new isle", John Cabot's pension order of December 13, 1497, and second letters patent of February 3, 1498? The insertion of these (or at least of their material passages) would not have required very much space, and would certainly have been welcome to many of those for whom this admirable series is especially intended.<sup>1</sup>

C. RAYMOND BEAZLEY.

*Christopher Columbus and the New World of his Discovery.* A Narrative by FILSON YOUNG, with a Note on the Navigation of Columbus's First Voyage by the EARL OF DUNRAVEN, K.P. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company; London: E. Grant Richards. 1906. Two vols., pp. xxi, 323; ix, 399.)

THIS new life of the discoverer of America, although based to some extent on a study of the documents, is distinctly a popular work which offers nothing which need detain the scholar except the valuable and interesting "Note on the Navigation of Columbus's First Voyage by the Earl of Dunraven, K. P." This little treatise of some thirty pages throws light on many a passage in the Columbus narratives which the editors have left in obscurity. For example, Columbus frequently refers to the position of the "Guards", Beta and Gamma in the constellation of Ursa Minor. There is in particular the passage in the Journal of September 30, which has been mistranslated or, if correctly translated, left without explanation by every editor of that narrative. The Earl of Dunraven gives a lucid interpretation of the passage in question and explains the use made by sailors of the position "of the Guards" in determining the time in the night.

The most distinct merit in the body of the work is the rather full quotation from Columbus's own writings to illustrate his character or purposes. The translations in almost all cases are those given by Mr. John Boyd Thacher in his *Columbus*, who authorized Mr. Young to draw freely from them. Mr. Young's narrative is lively but too much interspersed with "purple passages". His model as a historian has only too plainly been Carlyle, whose pale ghost meets one at every turn. In criticism he adopts Mr. Vignaud's radical and destructive conclusions

<sup>1</sup> Some of these omissions might be defended on the ground that the series is intended to be a collection of narratives and not of documents, and that it does not aim at completeness, but is made up by selection. Ed.